



MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

O God of power, we praise you on this day that challenges our understanding of power. Your Son came to us in the vulnerability of a baby and died in the vulnerability of a victim. Yet we call that vulnerable one our King. As we worship, enable us to reflect on the ways we seek power. Our King reveals the power of grace and healing, the power of trust and faith. Move us to be the prophetic voice of the church that holds all in earthly power accountable to the King who cared for those without power. May our worship motivate us to stand up against and expose abuses of power. May our worship move us to seek our security in you rather than in money, political influence or the might of weapons. May your presence among us today in worship empower us to trust you in our own vulnerability. In Jesus' name. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ “Every weakness contains within itself a strength.” - *Shusaku Endo*
- ❖ “To share your weakness is to make yourself vulnerable; to make yourself vulnerable is to show your strength.” - *Criss Jami*
- ❖ “In a very real sense not one of us is qualified, but it seems that God continually chooses the most unqualified to do his work, to bear his glory. If we are qualified, we tend to think that we have done the job ourselves. If we are forced to accept our evident lack of qualification, then there's no danger that we will confuse God's work with our own, or God's glory with our own.”
- *Madeleine L'Engle, Walking on Water: Reflections on Faith and Art*

PRAISE SONG: *Justice Means*, verses 1, 3, 5, 6 & 8 (music at end of bulletin)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: We offer our loyalty and praise to a powerful God.

People: We submit ourselves to the God who sent Jesus in vulnerability.

Leader: Let us worship Christ our Sovereign, who modeled the power of love.

People: Let us worship the Risen Christ, who opened up the gates of Paradise.

OUR CONFESSION:

ALL: Powerful and merciful God, we confess to you the ways we have misused and misunderstood power. We have placed power in the hands of people who have abused it. We have been apathetic when the victims of power have demanded the justice they deserve. We have cowered before those who hold power, rather than stand up to them in the authority you give us. In your mercy forgive us, O God, and teach us to seek power for the good of all, with attention to the powerless and downtrodden. Heal us of the insecurity that leads us to seek the security of worldly power instead of the vulnerable power of Christ our true King. Enable us to live and act in trust of you, even when we do not know what the future holds, because we know that you hold the power of eternity. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Hear the Good News: Christ our King opened the doors of paradise to the repentant thief. When we confess and repent, Christ will open the doors to God's grace and mercy for us. God forgives our sins. Praise to God.

THE CONFESSION RESPONSE: *If I Believe in Jesus*
(music at end of bulletin)

THE FIRST LESSON: *James 3:13-4:3 (The Message)*

This Biblical Book's original audience was an early Christian Community and suggests what behaviors they might show. Here the writer presents the contrast between "earthly" and "heavenly" wisdom and what actions can result from having each of them.

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ² You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

THE GOSPEL:

Mark 9:30-37

As Mark tells the story of Jesus' life, Jesus shares with His disciples several times what will be happening to Him. Here is one of those times; however, His disciples engage in discussion about who is greatest among them. Jesus learns about that and makes clear His version of greatness is in serving others including children.

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

MESSAGE: ***"Great, Greater, ... Servant?"***

- Pastor David Schoob

MESSAGE RESPONSE: ***One Brick at a Time*** (music at end of bulletin)

THE PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

ALL: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT:

Leader: Enter into the world that is obsessed with power to reveal the power of the Cross. Take with you the blessing of our King, who offered paradise to one crushed by political power. Go in the power of love and the power of joy.

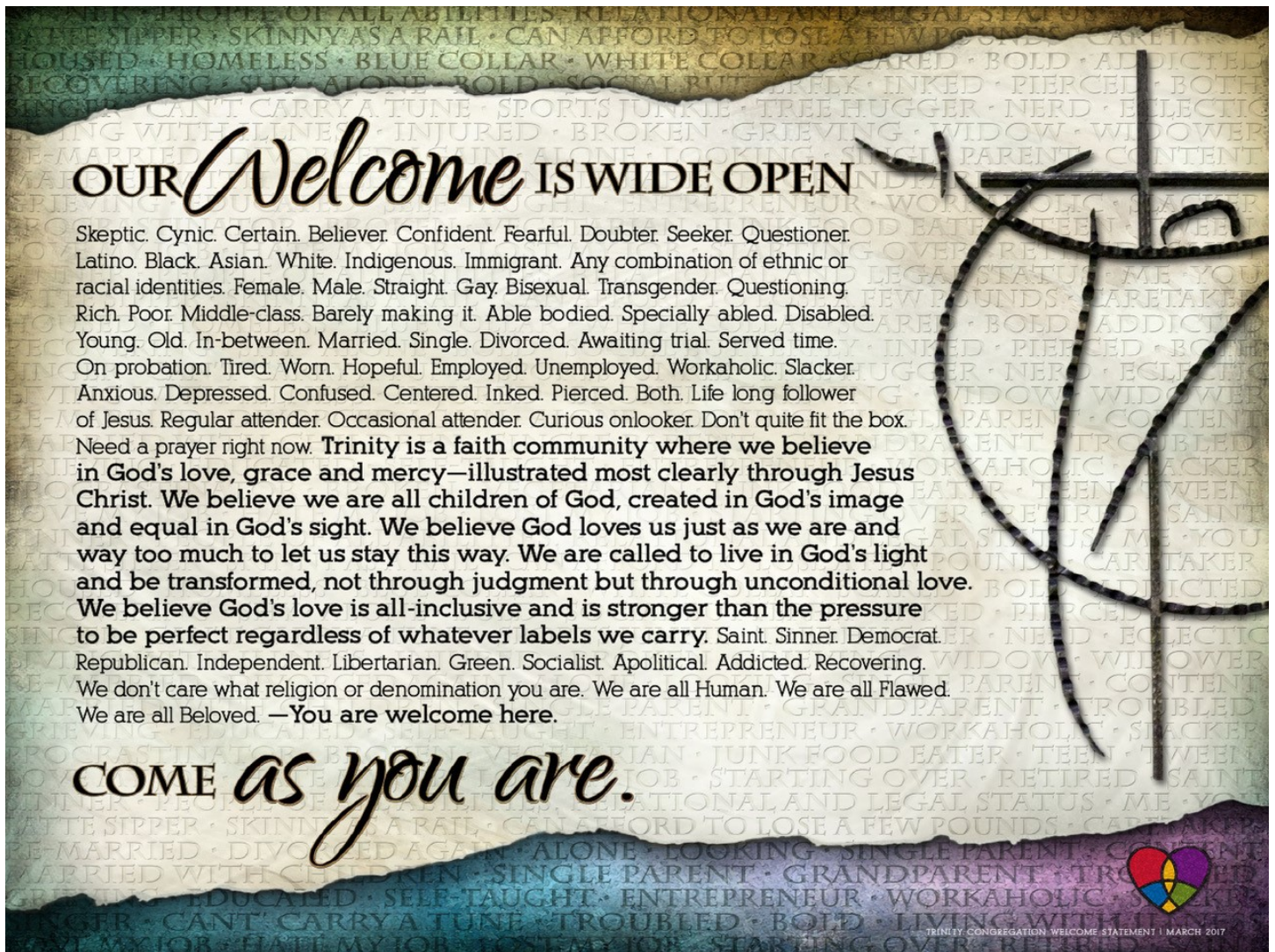
ALL: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: ***You Rolled Away the Stone*** (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



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Justice Means, verses 1, 3, 5, 6 & 8



3. Jus tice frees us from the clutch of too lit - tle

5. Jus - tice means the slaves go free; debts all end with

6. Jus - tice means that lead - ers care to keep peo - ple

8. Jus tice is what God re - quires, more than hymns and



or too much; it's God's lib - er - at__ - ing touch. (chorus)

Ju - bi - lee; no one owns God's prop - er - ty. (v.6)

from de - spair, build - ing sys - tems that__ are fair. (chorus)

loft - y spires; it's the praise that God__ de - sires. (chorus)

If I Believe in Jesus



If I be-lieve in Je - sus, do I need to fol - low Him?

If I be-lieve in Je - sus, do I need to fol - low Him?

'Cause if I'm gon - na fol - low Him, some things are bound to change.

Time to go and love my neigh - bor;
Time to break and some bread with sin - ners;
Time to help my home - less sis - ter;

time to get down on my knees;
time to weep for my bro - ken dreams;
time to wash my bro - ther's feet;

time to step out on the wa - ter
time to help a wound - ed strang - er
time to speak a - gainst in - jus - tice

but I'm hav - ing some trou - ble with let - ting go of all of my things.
but I'm hav - ing some trou - ble with lov - ing my en - e - mies.
but I'm hav - ing some trou - ble con - front - ing the pow'rs that be.

One Brick At A Time

1. We lay one brick at a time.
We take one step at a time.
A revolution of the heart
Building a new world one brick at a time.
2. We throw one stone in the pond.
Its rings go far beyond
'til all God's creatures are circled in
Building a new world one brick at a time. (chorus, 1st ending)
3. We mix our dreams and our tears
To make the mortar strong.
Binding together earth, sky and song,
Building a new world one brick at a time.
4. We hear the cries of the earth.
We feel the pain of the poor.
We challenge the systems of greed and war,
Building a new world one brick at a time. (chorus, 1st ending)
5. What we do might seem small
And we may never know.
The smallest things when done with love
Multiply and grow one brick at a time. (chorus, 2nd ending)
6. We lay one brick at a time.
We take one step at a time.
A revolution of the heart
Building a new world one brick at a time,
One brick at a time.

Chorus

The old world falls a - part to make way for the

new. Don't be a - fraid and don't lose heart.

Love is break - ing through. (Sing v. 3 or 5)

through. Oh, Love is break - ing through. (Sing v. 6)

You Rolled Away the Stone

The musical score is written for a single voice in treble clef, key of D major (indicated by two sharps), and 4/4 time. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words hyphenated across lines. The score includes a first ending (marked '1.') and a second ending (marked '2.,3.') which leads back to the beginning of the first ending. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

How can we look in an - y - one's eyes and
How can we take more than we need and when
How can we hurt our fam' - ly and friends, the
not see the beau - ty there? How can we know some
so man - y bel - lies growl? How can we not share
ones that we love the most? How can we not live
- one's pain and just leave it there?
our roof when a home - less ba - by howls?
your love when you saved our souls?
1. You rolled a - way the stone
2.,3. from the tomb! Can you roll a - way the hard-ness from our
hearts? You rolled a - way the stone from the tomb! Can you
roll a - way the hard-ness from our hearts?